THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Rift between West Bengal and the Central Government

4680. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a rift has developed in the talks between the Centre and the State Government of West Bengal over the exchange of enclaves of India and Bangladesh along the border of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Agreement between U.S.A. and Russia for cut in Arms

4681. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recently signed US—Russian agreements on huge cuts in strategic arms;

(b) if so, the details of the strategic and nuclear arms cuts agreed upon between the two; and

(c) what is the change in Government's perception about the prospects of world peace and arms-race?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha. (See below).

(c) Government believes that such an agreement is an important and encouraging step. But even after the envisaged reduction, both sides would continue to retain huge nuclear of larsenals. The agreement does not of course cover the arsenals of other nuclear wapons powers. Government believes that unilateral or bilaterally negotiated arms reduction agreements are not a substitute for multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations which must be linked to the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a time bound framework.

Statement

During the Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States, a memorandum of agreement was signed with the US President George Bush on June 17, 1992. The salient features of the agreement are:

Upon entry into force of the START Treaty following the completion of the ratification process in the USA and Russian Federation. within a 7 year period, the United States of America and the Russian Federation will reduce their strategic forces to no more than:

(I) overall number of warheads for each between 3800 and 4250;

(III) 650 heavy ICBM warheads; and

(III) 650 heavy ICBM warheads; and

(IV) 2160 SLBM warheads.

By the Year 2003 (O_T by the end of the year 2000 if the United States

can contribute to the financing of the destruction or elimination of strategic offensive arms in Russia), they will:

(I) reduce the overall total to no more than a number of warheads for each between 3000 and 3500;

(II) eliminate all MIRVed ICBMs; and

(III) reduce SLBM warheads to between no more than 1700 to 1750.

At the same meeting, both countries also agreed that both countries should work together with allies and other interested parties in developing a concept for a Global Protection System (GPS) as part of an overall strategy regarding the proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

Supply of Arms by China to Pakistan

4682. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that China has been supplying arms to a number of India's neighbouring countries i.e. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Burma and Nepal, and according to the experts of Defence Study and Analysis Institute it is posing a danger to the security of the country;

(b) whether Government are also aware that Pakistan and China have close military/strategic links which are posing a danger to the security of India and that seventy per cent of Pakistan's military hardwares are manufactured in China;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and whether Government of India propose to have talks with China to deal with this potential danger so as to avert it; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and whether the Hon'ble Minister of Defence dduring the forthcoming visit to China will refer to this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government are aware of arms sales by China to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, and its earlier sales to Nepal. Government are also aware of the extensive defence cooperation between China and Pakistan.

(c) and (d) Government have, in discussions with the Chinese Government, expressed our concerns on this score. Government have emphasised that the supply of sophisticated arms technology to Pakistan beyond its legitimate requirements of defence, poses a threat to India's security and to the maintenance of peace and stability in South Asia. Government have also stressed the need for the avoidance of actions that do not build mutual understanding between India and China. During the recent visit to China of our Raksha Mantri our views have once again been conveyed to the Chinese. Government keep under onstart review all developments having a bearing on India's security and take appropriate measures to safeguard the national interest.

Release of Indian Prisoner of war in Pakistani jail

4683. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1523 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 1992 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Saheb Bahadur Singh Chauhan, MM number 87148 of INS Khukhari had also been taken as prisoner of war in 1971 and is still in a Pakistani jail;